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BOOK REVIEWS

The Text of Shakespeare. By THOMAS R. LOUNSBURY, L.H.D., LL.D., Professor of English in Yale University. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906. Pp. 59. 8vo. \$2.

Matters of minute textual criticism are with good judgment eliminated from secondary-school work in Shakspeare; but questions of a general nature often arise in class that demand intelligent answers: How is it that there are such variations in different editions? Why didn't Shakspeare, who lived in the age of printing, fix his own text, and not suffer from corruptions like the authors who flourished in the age of manuscript? What is the difference between "quartos" and "folios"? And why did Shakspeare, like all the rest of the Elizabethan dramatists, except perhaps Ben Jonson, seem to have no interest in his plays after he had once got them acted? How has the text of our school editions been made up, if Shakspeare left no manuscripts and didn't oversee his printing?

In compact compass and authoritative form Professor Lounsbury's book provides satisfactory answers for all these questions, and more. With perhaps no interest in the literary quarrel between Pope and Theobald (the first editors of Shakspeare, after Rowe), the reader will find himself enticed into an important Shakspearean question by Professor Lounsbury's alluring and fascinating presentation of what would seem at first sight dry and uninteresting facts. His "penitential" reading in the "interminable bog of periodical literature" of the eighteenth century has thrown a flood of new light on absurd literary traditions and exposed errors that have persisted to the present day, especially in regard to the quality of Theobald's work and to the character and influence of Pope. The story of the original "Dunciad" of Pope and its bearing on the Shakspeare question is here told for the first time; so that it becomes tolerably clear how it happened that the one man, whose extensive learning and exceptional acumen have done more toward rectifying the text of Shakspeare than has been effected by any single editor since, should have gained the reputation of being extraordinarily dull—chiefly through the duplicity, malignity, and prestige of Pope.

The secondary teacher, however, will be more interested perhaps in the introductory chapters on the state of the drama in Shakspeare's time, on the dramatists' attitude toward their plays, and on the differences in the early texts and the first editions—information not so new, but brought together here for the first time in readable shape. He will see how the text as a whole was in a distinctly worse condition in the latter part of the seventeenth century than it was in the earlier part; and he will see, too, how the establishment of the right reading was at the outset attended with difficulties of which we at the present time hardly dream. "It was not merely that the knowledge of words, or of meanings once belonging to words, had been lost; it was not merely that much of the grammar of the Elizabethan period was no longer understood; there was complete ignorance of the methods which needed to be employed to

rescue the text from the corruption into which it had been plunged by the ignorance of typesetters, the indifference of proofreaders, and the incompetence of editors." Since the beginning of the nineteenth century those methods have been in the possession of specialists; and of their application of them every reader of a school edition now enjoys the fruits. If a pupil wants to know about any of these questions, his teacher ought to be able to tell him; if his teacher cannot tell him, this book will enable him to.

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Principles of Botany. By JOSEPH Y. BERGEN and BRADLEY M. DAVIS. Boston: Ginn & Co.

This book comes to us as a revision and enlargement of Professor Bergen's *Foundations of Botany*—a change amply justified by the result, provided that the aim was to write the old book up into the class of college textbooks of botany.

The volume is made up of three parts: Part I, "The Structure and Physiology of Seed-Plants;" Part II, "The Morphology, Evolution and Classification of Plants;" Part III, "Ecology and Economic Botany." Of these, Parts I and III are by Professor Bergen, and Part II by Dr. Davis.

Professor Bergen's contribution is essentially *The Foundations of Botany* minus the directions for experiments, the chapters on cryptogams and the flora. It is very noticeable, however, that the author has made a careful revision of the old text. More or less scattered paragraphs have been brought into correlation, as in chap. 5, "The Properties of the Cell;" bits of new matter have been added here and there, as in chap. 2, the discussion of ferments and enzymes; topics have been elaborated and recast into more technical form, as the discussions of photosynthesis, adaptation, variation, and mutation. Chaps. 40 and 41, "Hybridization," "Plant Breeding and Economic Botany," are new and valuable additions, and bring the book into touch with the very practical side of botanical science as exemplified by the work of Luther Burbank and the agricultural experiment stations.

The topics protoplasm and classification have been turned over to Dr. Davis for treatment in Part II.

The whole revision has been toward greater precision and succinctness of statement, and has resulted in a more scholarly work.

Notwithstanding the addition of considerable new matter, the boiling-down process has kept the amount of text just the same as in the old book, while an addition of four lines to the length of the page makes the new text appear to be thirty-six pages shorter than the old.

The most conspicuous feature of the new book is the treatment of Part II by Dr. Davis. The old chapters on the cryptogams have been entirely rewritten, and much new matter has been added. The subject is here raised to the dignity of a treatise, is handled in a scholarly manner, smacks of the results of recent research, abounds in good type-forms, and is generally clear and accurate in statement.

Dr. Davis introduces his work by a brief statement of the principles of